

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 059400  
ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-10  
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NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00  
INRE-00 TRSE-00 /117 R

DRAFTED BY IO/UNA:JFTEFFT:BJS

APPROVED BY IO:GDALLEY

-----020151 081906Z /64

O 081846Z MAR 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 059400

FOR USDEL TO HRC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNHRC, SHUM

SUBJECT: PRESS COMMENT ON 34TH SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS  
COMMISSION

THERE FOLLOWS ARTICLE ON HRC WHICH APPEARED IN  
WASHINGTON POST ON MARCH 8. ARTICLE RECEIVED THE LARGEST  
PLAY BY FAR OF ANY ARTICLE IN U.S. PRESS ON CURRENT HRC  
SESSION. BEGIN TEXT.

U.S., SOVIETS TRADE SHARP CHARGES AT U.N. RIGHTS MEETING  
BY JONATHAN ROLLO  
GENEVA - THE U.S. AND SOVIET DELEGATES TO THE U.N. HUMAN  
RIGHTS COMMISSION EXCHANGED SHARP CHARGES YESTERDAY IN ONE  
OF THE FEW HEATED EXCHANGES OF THIS YEAR'S FIVE-WEEK  
MEETING.

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ADDRESSING THE FULL 32-MEMBER COMMISSION, U.S.  
AMBASSADOR EDWARD MEZVINSKY ATTACKED THE SOVIET REFUSAL  
TO INCLUDE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES IN THE FINAL REPORT OF THE  
CURRENT BELGRADE CONFERENCE ON THE HELSINKI ACCORDS AND  
ITS ARREST OF CITIZENS WHO HAVE MONITORED SOVIET COMPLIANCE  
WITH THE HELSINKI PACT.

MEZVINSKY ALSO SAID THE COMMISSION SHOULD BE "DEEPLY TROUBLED BY REPORTS OF RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION AND ANTI-

SEMITISM IN THE SOVIET UNION."

THE SOVIET DELEGATE, VALERNAN ZORIN, CALLED THE AMERICAN'S CHARGES "BASELESS" AND A FORM OF "PSYCHOLOGICAL WAR" WHICH COULD LEAD TO A RETURN TO COLD WAR STRAINS.

ALTHOUGH HE CALLED THE U.S. STATEMENT AN "INTERFERENCE" IN SOVIET INTERNAL AFFAIRS, ZORIN ADDED THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD CONCERN ITSELF WITH THE FATE OF BLACK AMERICAN, JOHN HARRIS, WHO IS SCHEDULED TO BE EXECUTED IN ALABAMA FRIDAY. HARRIS, 34, WAS SENTENCED TO DEATH FOR HIS ROLE IN A PRISON UPRISING IN WHICH A GUARD WAS KILLED.

THE SCENE WAS REMINISCENT OF LAST YEAR'S VERBAL CLASHES AT THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION BETWEEN THEN U.S. DELEGATE ALLARD K. LOWENSTEIN AND THE SOVIETS OVER WHETHER SOVIET DISSIDENTS SHOULD BE A TOPIC FOR RESOLUTIONS AT THE COMMISSION. THE INTENSITY OF THE CHARGES AND COUNTER-CHARGES WAS LOWER YESTERDAY, REFLECTING IN PART, THE LOWER-KEY TONE IN U.S.-SOVIET EXCHANGES OVER HUMAN RIGHTS. UNCLASSIFIED

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IN ADDITION TO HAVING AN EASIER GOING PERSONAL STYLE THAN LOWENSTEIN, THIS YEAR'S AMERICAN DELEGATE, A FORMER CONGRESSMAN FROM IOWA, IS PURSUING A STRATEGY OF KEEPING A LOWER PUBLIC PROFILE IN THE HOPES OF ACHIEVING MORE TANGIBLE RESULTS FROM THE COMMISSION IN INFORMAL GATHERINGS AND IN THE COMMISSION'S FORMALLY ESTABLISHED CONFIDENTIAL PROCEDURES.

"BEFORE, WE'VE BEEN VOCAL AND UP-FRONT AND WHAT DID WE GET OUT OF IT? ZERO," SAYS MEZVINSKY. NOW, IN KEEPING WITH A MORE GENERAL REORIENTATION TOWARDS THE UNITED NATIONS, THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN AVOIDING THE DRAMATIC VERBAL CONFRONTATIONS OF THE PAST AND LOOKING INSTEAD FOR AREAS OF AGREEMENT AND ALLIANCE WITH SUCH KEY NONALIGNED COUNTRIES AS INDIA AND NIGERIA, WHICH HAVE BEEN TAKING AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING THIS YEAR.

THE AMERICANS HAVE PARTICULARLY BEEN FOCUSING THEIR ATTENTION ON THE SO-CALLED "1503" PROCEDURES OF THE COMMISSION WHICH PROVIDES FOR CONFIDENTIAL REVIEWS OF

INVESTIGATIONS OF NATIONS CONSIDERED GUILTY OF CONSISTENT GROSS VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

THE U.S. DELEGATION HAS EXPRESSED PLEASURE THAT THIS

YEAR, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE COMMISSION'S HISTORY, ACTION UNDER THE CONFIDENTIAL PROCEDURES WAS TAKEN ON NINE COUNTRIES, INCLUDING UGANDA, URUGUAY, ETHIOPIA AND INDONESIA. IN THE PAST, THE COMMISSION HAS SINGLED OUT ONLY CHILE, SOUTH AFRICA AND ISRAEL.

THE AMERICANS WHO ARE NOT CONSIDERED CHAMPIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS WITHIN THE COMMISSION, HAVE COME UNDER PRIVATE CRITICISM FROM OTHER DELEGATIONS FOR NOT DEVOTING UNCLASSIFIED

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ENOUGH EFFORT AND EXPERTISE TO A NUMBER OF OTHER ITEMS ON THE COMMISSION'S LONG AGENDA, INCLUDING THE DRAFTING OF CONVENTIONS COVERING VARIOUS SPECIFIC HUMAN RIGHTS.

"IN THE WORKING GROUPS THE U.S.S.R. WILL HAVE A TOP PERSON FOLLOWING WHAT'S GOING ON, BUT THE U.S. WILL ONLY BE REPRESENTED BY AN ADVISOR," COMPLAINED ONE OBSERVER, WHO NOTED THAT THE YOUNGER AND LESS EXPERIENCED MEMBERS OF THE EIGHT-MEMBER U.S. DELEGATION SOMETIMES ARE OUT-MANUEVERED.

FREQUENT CHANGES AT THE TOP OF THE DELEGATION ALSO UNDERCUT THE AMERICANS' EFFECTIVENESS HERE, ACCORDING TO MANY DIPLOMATS. WHILE MANY DELEGATES FROM WESTERN COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN ATTENDING THE ANNUAL MEETING FOR FIVE YEARS OR MORE, THE AMERICANS CHANGE PERSONNEL SO OFTEN THAT THEY DO NOT BUILD UP THE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS THAT DIPLOMATS HERE SAY ARE SO IMPORTANT AT THE NEGOTIATING LEVEL.

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"LET US HEAR REAL PEOPLE," HE CONCLUDED, CALLING FOR OPEN HEARINGS, TO BE HELD BY THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION UNCLASSIFIED

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TO HEAR IN PERSON FROM THE VICTIMS OF RIGHTS VIOLATIONS.  
END TEXT. VANCE

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PAGE 01 STATE 059400  
ORIGIN IO-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /005 R

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DRAFTED BY:IO/ML:PWKRIEBEL

APPROVED BY:IO:TBROWN

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R 101205Z MAR 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO RUTAIJ/AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN 0000

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USINT HAVANA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

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AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
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AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

UNCLAS STATE 059400

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 059400 SENT ACTION GENEVA INFO  
USUN NEW YORK MAR 08.  
QUOTE UNCLAS STATE 059400

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** SHUM, US, UR, UNHRC, (ROLLOW, JONATHAN)  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
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